

flood protection strategy for the Greenbrier Basin must be pursued. Toward this end, I will be seeking the necessary authorization from the Congress for this initiative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, on May 22 I was unavoidably absent and missed several amendment votes on H.R. 3259, the FY 1997 Intelligence Authorization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted: "aye" on rollcall 184, the Richardson amendment; "no" on rollcall 185, the Sanders amendment; and "no" on rollcall 186, the Conyers amendment.

EMPLOYEE COMMUTING
FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Mr. GOODLING's amendment which advances the interests of both employees and employers, particularly as it will solve a major and unintended problem in the high technology industry.

I am proud of Alabama's growing high technology industry especially in the Birmingham area. There, as elsewhere, many computer professionals are paid 6½ times the minimum wage which is currently \$27.63 per hour. I don't believe it was the intent of Con-

gress in raising the minimum wage by 90 cents for it to apply to these professionals who in many cases make \$55,000 a year. Hence, I support decoupling the computer overtime exemption rate from the minimum wage increase.

With this amendment, important professional work can be completed on time such as computer software and hardware design work done by computer systems analysts, programming modifications done by computer programmers, computer system documentation work done by computer technical writing professionals, and other similarly skilled workers.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for including this provision in the en bloc amendment and strongly support the other provisions included in the amendment.